उन स्थानों, जिन्हें वे जोड़ती है, राज्यों/क्षेत्रों जिन्हें वे सेवित करती हैं । जहां से गुजरती हैं, नदियों, पर्वतमालाओं राजवंशों, आंदोलनों आदि पर रखे जाते हैं ।

Efforts made to generate internal resources of railways

5769. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what concerted efforts have been made by Government during the last three years to generate internal resources so that the Indian Railways become economically and financially viable rather than annually hiking the fares: and

(b) what results have been achieved so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Annual Action Plans have been launched to effect economies in expenditure and to augment earnings. The strategies followed in this regard have been regularly discussed in periodic Conferences of General Managers held at the Railway Board level. Specific areas on which attention is being bestowed are :

(1) Economy in energy consumption;

(2) Closure of Steam Sheds and phasing out of steam traction;

(3) Monitoring of purchases and control over Inventory balances;

(4) Curbs on expenditure on items like Over time, Travelling allowances, etc.

At the same time, efforts have been made to augment Revenues by—

(1) Innovative marketing efforts to secure more of high-rated traffic;

(2) Plugging of leakages in earnings due to ticketless travel, etc.;

(3) Increasing revenue from commercial exploitation of railway land; and

(4) Steamlining the machinery for collection and disposal of scrap.

However, additional resource mobilisation could not be avoided because:

(a) The Railways do not have any control over the ever increasing costs relating to dearness allowance to staff, increased outgo on account of pension, etc., consequent on liberalisation of pension payments, cost of materials, cost of fuel, power tariff, etc; and

(b) Dwindling budgetary support and high cost of market borrowings have only added to the need of generation of internal resources for maintaining a reasonable size of the Railways' Plan.

Unremunerative proposal for new Railway Projects

5770. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals for new railway projects submitted by Government of Punjab during the last three years:

(b) whether some of the proposals have been found unremunerative; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on the proposals submitted by the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The following proposals have been received from the Punjab

Government during the last three years:

(i) For speedy completion of Beas-Goindwal line.

(ii) For construction of a rail link between Ludhiana and Chandigarh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The following action has been taken :

(i) Beas-Goindwal line has been given priority and would be completed during the current financial year.

(ii) The survey for a link between Rajpura and Chandigarh to provide a direct connection from all Districts of Punjab to Chandigarh has been completed. The survey report has just been received.

Computer Reservation Centre at Jalandhar

5771. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no Computer Reservation Centre at Jalandhar junction of Punjab state;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have so far taken or propose to take to redress the difficulties faced by passengers due to non-availability of Computer Reservation Centre at the said city?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Introduction of computerised Reservation Facility at Jalandhar has been sanctioned in the Works Programme 1993-94 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 30 lakhs.

Running of Shatabadi Express between Jalandhar and Delhi

5772. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps initiated by Government to start Shatabadi Express between Jalandhar-Delhi-Jalandhar;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Shatabadi Express proposed to be introduced between New Delhi and Amritsar will also serve the passengers of Jalandhar.

Upgrading and improving Dakshin Express

5773. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the need to upgrade and improve Dakshin Express plying between Delhi and Visakhapatnam;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to improve this train; and

(c) the details of such improvements undertaken in 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) There are demand for running of Nizamuddin-Visakhapatnam Link Express as an independant superfast train, which has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints. Amenities as per norms have been provided in Dakshin Express. Upgradation and improvement of facilities/amenities for the passengers is a continuous process.